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settlement. There is an excellent chapter on the influence of the American environment. The Revolution was not a thing of a day. The desire for self-government was unavoidable and was bound to grow, whether the English foreign office had adopted a policy wise or stupid. Englishmen in America naturally became revolutionists.

Massachusetts and Virginia hold the author's attention in a large part of the book. The influence of tobacco culture is especially well brought out, and the connections between South Carolina and rice and cotton growing, between Maryland, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island and religious liberty and between the New England states and commerce, is well emphasized. The discussion of the Puritans and their faith occupies almost half the pages, a division Mr. Low justifies by the great influence the Puritans have exercised not only in America, but on civilization in "all the rest of the world."

It must be admitted that at times the reader feels that the explanations of social phenomena are too easy to be accurate. For example, one doubts whether the carrying of arms in the South is due to the Carolinians' fear of servile revolt. But whatever objections may be raised as to details, the generalizations are usually accurate and give us a fresh view of influences the bearing of which our nearness often leads us to overlook. Mr. Low's work is one which is written in a style which reminds the reader of John Fiske. The discussion is decidedly human; the illustrations are always apt and forceful. The central argument—that America is developing a highly individualistic character, which stamps its people as a new race—is well worked out. The analysis extends in this volume only to the end of the eighteenth century. It is hoped that Mr. Low will continue the work to show the influence of the great formative forces that were introduced by the new immigrations following the Revolution, and the various other economic and political developments that have characterized our national growth.

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Murphy, E. G. *The Basis of Ascendancy*. Pp. xxiv, 250. Price, \$1.50. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1909.

Five years ago the "Problems of the Present South," by Mr. Murphy, was hailed as one of the best volumes ever written on the subject. This reputation is maintained in "The Basis of Ascendancy." The style is pleasant, the tone optimistic. It is an appeal to all citizens, North as well as South, to recognize the great significance of the presence of the Negro in America; to realize the far reaching effect upon the character and institutions of whites as well as blacks of the measures adopted; and, above all, to see the possibility of better days ahead.

A southerner himself, the author does not hesitate to repeatedly challenge many of the accepted conventions and decisions of the South. He has little sympathy with proposals to keep the Negro ignorant; nor would he deny the suffrage to those who have shown themselves worthy. "It is idle

to talk of the fineness of the old-time Negro who was illiterate. He, and the paternalistic conditions which created him, are gone forever. We must train our present Negroes through the churches and the schools because we have nothing else through which to train them." "In the fundamental sense we can no more make a bi-racial division of our civilization than we can make a bi-racial division of the sunshine, the rain, the returning seasons."

Incapacity must not rule or ruin capacity. The violent reaction against the postbellum situation was based on the fear of this. But the policy of evasion turns back on those who employ it. We cannot have one law for the Negro, another for the white without breaking down all law. "If it is hard to convict a white man of the murder of a Negro, it soon becomes equally hard to convict him of the murder of a white man." In the long run repression of the Negro is impossible—his development must be furthered, not hindered. The time has come for constructive policies.

The Negro race is developing; is finding itself; is becoming self-conscious, self-centered. This integrating force will interest American Negroes in Africa, will open opportunities for large service. So long as despair rules there is little progress. Let hope enter and the race moves forward. To give the Negro great responsibility for his own progress is to steady him.

The strong man, the strong race, is burdened by the weak. Lack of homogeneous population cripples our social institutions. In the South only too often has the local situation caused an eclipse of national policies and interests.

In no uncertain terms are the reconstruction policies condemned—and justly. In this most northern students concur. But the new coercion—the reaction of the South against the Negro is equally unfortunate. Social, race integrity is not threatened by recognition of the civil, political and industrial rights of the Negroes. "No true freedom can retard our freedom." The better spirit of the South must respond to the new situation.

The last chapter, "Ascendancy," is a manly, noble appeal to the South to see the difficulty of to-day in order to realize the hope of to-morrow.

Seldom has it fallen to the reviewer's lot to read pages more accurate in presentation of existing problems; more suggestive of the power of man to surmount his obstacles; or evidencing greater faith in humanity. I can hardly commend the book too highly.

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Plehn, Carl C. *Introduction to Public Finance.* Pp. xv, 480. Price, \$1.75. New York: Macmillan Company, 1909.

This book, which now appears in its third and revised edition, should prove useful as a description of the field of public finance and as a compendium of the recognized writers on public finance, yet there is scarcely a chapter which does not contain statements which invite challenge. The book is arranged in the usual conventional order of expenditure, revenue, debt and